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## TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

### IN SUPPORT OF HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

March 12, 2013

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee, I am here to support HB 5460.

Firstly, thank you, for letting me testify today. I am George Mathanool, I am a resident of the Town and the fine City of Groton. I also participate in the Town's Economic Development Commission as its Vice-Chairman.

Today I am here together with my fellow county men Bill Johnson and Robert Frink to advocate for the passage of this Bill, including Governor Malloy's Bill SB 838, that was heard last week. We are seeking the passage of these two Bills forward.

Taking a quote from Gov Malloy's comment on the last Davos – World Economic Forum, "what we're talking about is the next generation of jobs, investing in an industry that is already worth \$298 billion a year and is growing at 11 percent per year". Here in Southeastern Connecticut, we already own or have the raw materials and core strengths that launched the greatest pharmaceutical company of our time – Pfizer.

In Southeastern Connecticut today at 2013, we still have the skill sets, the manpower, the resources, the Intellectual capital and the vacancy of world-class Pfizer facilities, to aggressively spearhead emerging bioscience and pharmaceutical researches and its resulting spin off, of human assets like STEM jobs.

Other communities may have to nurture these assets in the years ahead to realize them, however in Southeastern Connecticut we are beyond shovel-ready for this economic revival!

Investment in bioscience in Southeastern Connecticut could unleash the potential of many scientists that already have homes in our area and where unique facilities exist that don't have to be reinvented elsewhere for them.

These scientists already have experience bringing drugs to the market and don't have to be trained in how to make the leap from academia to private enterprise. They've lived it, they worked it, and they know it like the back of their hand. Thus the opportunity to invest money where it will do the most good and retain the most talent, plus save us huge bucks.

It's also much easier for Connecticut to progress by retaining and harnessing these smart people that already live in our county.

We believe both Bills SB 838 and HB 5460, would facilitate The 3 Rs for Southeastern Connecticut – Restructure, Renew And Reinvigorate. We believe both Bills would help Southeastern Connecticut to align with our key stakeholders, inspire anew the Yankee Spirit for entrepreneurship and their vision, and most importantly energize Southeastern Connecticut's 4 core regional assets which are: Life Sciences, Defense (including submarine building), Tourism (including our ocean heritage) and Education.

For this Bill SB 5460, we seek the DECD's partnership with us to develop a cohesive model for Southeastern Connecticut, to reuse our current physical capital assets, cultivate top talents and to strengthen our regional strengths, whilst spurring new regional revenues and manufacturing.

The passage of these two Bills can enable Connecticut to build its own allegorical Yellow Brick Road of Innovation, a bright yellow line between the emerald cities of New York and Boston via the highways thru Stamford, New Haven and Groton-New London.

I would like to assert, Southeastern Connecticut is not a competitor to businesses in other Connecticut counties in our small State, but an adjunct - a supplement because of our unique, more rural features, away from the hubbub of the city. Companies that want to locate in a city will still naturally go to Stamford, New Haven or Farmington, but now there is a fourth

option that could avoid the brain drain and likely help all of Connecticut.

Finally, as an end note, remembering a quote from Sen LeBeu “How many seeds will that first tree produce and will we be looking at a grove in 20 years?’. My friends and I of Southeastern Connecticut could stake a challenge: if these public monies were invested in our region, we will have instead not just one, but many groves within 10 Years. Please approve Bill HB 5460 - we have done it and we remember in Southeastern Connecticut what we are very capable of !

Thank you, very much again! I look forward to answering any thoughts you may have.